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 <h1 style="text-align: center;">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).</p>	Application Number	09/348,502
	Filing Date	July 7, 1999
	First Named Inventor	IOANA DONESCU
	Group Art Unit	2623
	Examiner Name	A. Bhatnagar
	Attorney Docket Number	01807.000924

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continuation prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted
i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on <u>November 29, 2004</u> (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed
i. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
2. Miscellaneous
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Applicants petition the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated <u>July 27, 2004</u> , in which an <u>Amendment After Final Rejection and Petition for Extension of Time was timely filed on November 29, 2004</u> with a payment of \$110.00, for an additional month to December 27, 2004, and submit \$340.00 for payment of the extension fee.
3. Fees
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. <u>06-1205</u>
i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) <span style="float: right;"><u>12/28/2004 EABUBAK1 00000062 09348502</u></span>
ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) <span style="float: right;"><u>01 FC:1801</u></span>
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <span style="float: right;"><u>790.00 OP</u></span>
iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <span style="float: right;"><u>340.00 OP</u></span>
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Checks in the amounts of \$ <u>790.00 and \$340.00</u> are enclosed
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

Name (Print/Type)	Brian L. Klock	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,570
Signature		Date	December 27, 2004

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	
Signature	
Date	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.